

Message Text

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70

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11

OMB-01 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 191346Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1282

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T VIENNA 0490

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET REPS JAN 17

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DISCUSSION BY US REP WITH
SOVIET REPS ON JANUARY 17 WHICH US REP WILL
DISTRIBUTE TO AD HOC GROUP IN SESSION ON JANUARY 22.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. US REP, ACCOMPANIED BY US DEPREP AND OSD REP, MET
SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV, SMIRNOVSKY AND KVITSINSKIY ON
SOCIAL OCCASION JANUARY 17. CONVERSATION WAS MAINLY
GENERAL AND SOCIAL.

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2. SOVIET REPS INSISTED THEY COULD ONLY CONTEMPLATE EQUAL REDUCTIONS WITH WEST AND REJECTED ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS. THEY INDICATED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER A COMMON CEILING, BUT ONLY IF AIR MANPOWER WERE ADDED. TO DO SO, ACCORDING TO KVITSINSKIY, WOULD RESULT IN NEAR EQUALITY OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCES WITH A TOTAL ADVANTAGE OF 20 TO 30,000 MEN (SIC) FOR THE PACT, WHICH LATTER MIGHT BE WILLING TO FOREGO. (COMMENT: ON PREVIOUS DAY, KVITSINSKIY HAD TOLD US DEPREP, AS FRG REP PREVIOUSLY, THAT DISPARITY WAS 10,000). KVITSINSKIY SAID HE HAD CHECKED THROUGH SOVIET FIGURES ONCE MORE TO COME UP WITH 20,000-30,000 FIGURE FOR TOTAL DISCREPANCY. IF ALLIED FIGURES SHOWED HIGHER TOTAL FOR PACT, THEY MUST BE BASED ON DOUBLE COUNTING IN SOME AREA SUCH AS AIR DEFENSE.

3. KHLESTOV ASKED WHY, IF PHASE I WAS TO BE LIMITED TO US/SOVIET FORCES AS WEST WAS PROPOSING, OTHER NATO ALLIES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION MEETINGS OF THIS TOPIC. US REP SAID KHLESTOV WAS WELL AWARE THAT THIS WAS ALLIANCE MATTER ON BOTH SIDES AND THAT HE ASSUMED EASTERN EUROPEAN PACT MEMBERS WOULD ALSO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS OF THIS TYPE.

4. SMIRNOVSKY RAISED ISSUE OF DISCREPANCY BETWEEN ALLIED OFFICIAL TOTAL OF 777,000 NATO GROUND TROOPS AND GROUND FORCE OF 802,000 RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN GERMAN WHITE BOOK. US REP EXPLAINED THIS FIGURE INCLUDED DANES.

5. REPLYING TO QUESTION FROM US REP, KHLESTOV DENIED THAT SOVIETS HAD SHIFTED TO THREE-YEAR COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE WITH EFFECT ON JANUARY 1 AS CLAIMED IN A RECENT ARTICLE IN FEDERAL GERMAN "WELT".

6. US REP REITERATED TOKHLESTOV NEED TO HAVE ADEQUATE TIME FOR PREPARATION FOR AND CONDUCT OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AND DESIRABILITY OF PROVIDING THIS TIME BY REDUCING FREQUENCY OF PLENARIES.

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KHLESTOV LISTENED WITHOUT COMMENT.

END TEXT.HUMES

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NNN

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